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1. Q. What is the attitude of the Soviets to East German rearmament?
 - A. Few Soviet officers or soldiers know what is afoot. Most think that the Alert Police is in fact a police force. Those who are aware of its true nature fall into two groups: those who play a part in the training of the East German Army, and those to whom knowledge has leaked out. Those who play a part in training are very carefully selected, hard-core Communists, who follow orders unquestioningly. The others, many of whom fought against the Germans in World War II, do not find the idea of East German rearmament altogether appealing. Nevertheless, the general attitude is, "let them catch it; fewer of us will die." We do feel, however, that East German troops could not be counted on for reliability.
2. Q. What do you know of the East German Alert Police?
 - A. Very little, since I had nothing to do with that part of the Soviet Command in East Germany responsible for the development of the Alert Police. My knowledge of that group is second hand and is derived mainly from conversations with fellow-officers and deductions made from those conversations.
3. Q. What is the size of the Alert Police Force?
 - A. It consists of 25 divisions, of which 15 should be battle-ready by the end of 1951. The strength of each division is likely close to 4,000 or 4,500. It is the skeleton of an East German army, and is said to be excellent, from the military point of view. [redacted] note: There are 25X1A 24 Alert Units, not 25; the T/O strength of each is 1,800.7
4. Q. In view of its unreliability, what mission could the Alert Police have?
 - A. A repetition of what happened in China and Korea may have been planned. Twenty five East German divisions would be quite adequate to take over West Germany without Soviet participation. Though they are unreliable, they are very well paid, and all key positions are held by trusted Communists. For a nationalistic purpose, such as the reunification of Germany, they would be reliable enough.

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5. Q. Since the Western Powers have announced that any attack on West Germany will be considered an act of war, is a purely East German attack, such as you described, still likely?
- A. It is understood that if East Germany attacked now, the war would involve the USSR. A purely East German attack would, therefore, not occur, unless Western occupation troops were withdrawn. If they were withdrawn, West Germany would be done for; if they are not, war may begin in Germany, with the Soviets "defending" East Germany. In such a situation, East German troops would be used in an essentially satellite role. East German divisions would be integrated in Soviet higher commands, with Soviet formations on either flank, and to their rear, to keep them from retreating.
6. Q. Are there adequate stocks of Soviet heavy weapons in depots in East Germany to equip the Alert Police fully when the Soviet Control Commission decides to do so?
- A. Stocks in East Germany are not now adequate, and German production of weapons goes mostly to the Soviets. Some stocks of weapons are available in East Germany; the balance of what will be needed is now farther to the East. In Brest-Litovsk, for example, there is a depot with thousands of pieces of artillery, which will be brought to the west at the appropriate time. At the moment, the Soviets would consider it dangerous to equip the Alert Police fully because of their unreliability. Each unit now has only enough heavy weapons for training purposes--not more than five tanks, for example.
7. Q. Could German prisoners of war still in the USSR be used to reinforce the Alert Police substantially?
- A. Officially, all prisoners of war were repatriated by 1949 except for a large number of war criminals. It is possible that these are given favorable treatment in return for promised cooperation. But they are basically anti-Soviet and unreliable. In case of dire necessity, they might be used as penal battalions.
8. Q. Are the East Germans likely to have tank and mechanized divisions, or rifle divisions only?
- A. In my opinion, rifle division only. The Soviets would consider it dangerous to give too much to the East Germans.
9. Q. Approximately how many interpreters would be needed per German division, if divisions were integrated into Soviet Corps and Armies?
- A. It is difficult to estimate. In any case, many German officers do not need interpreters. Most of those of high rank were prisoners of war and learned to speak Russian. Also, there have been military courses for Germans in the USSR since World War II, lasting for six months or a year, and students study Russian.
10. Q. Again assuming integration, would the Soviets keep the supply services in their own hands?
- A. Absolutely. The same is true with the other Satellites. It is the best means of retaining complete control. The only purpose of a German army is to supply cannon-fodder. This is a part of Soviet policy -- to decimate the population and wealth of the satellite countries so as to wear them away as future centers of resistance. In battle, the MGB would be behind German troops with machine guns. The Germans will fight for us only if they're forced to. If the Soviet army had to retreat, every German with a gun would shoot them in the back.
11. Q. Would joint maneuvers be essential before hostilities?

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A. Yes, but they will take place only just before hostilities begin. Meanwhile, there may be joint command post exercises of higher staffs, but no maneuvers with troops. That would be a tremendous political error, since it would show East Germany, or any other Satellite, to be nothing but a colony of the Soviet Union. Of course they are colonies, but the Soviets, with their legalistic minds, want to preserve the appearance that the Satellites are independent.

12. Q. Have you heard of any joint exercises on a small scale?

25X1A A. I have heard of none. Rokossovski and members of his staff participated in the maneuvers in East Germany in the summer of 1950, but no Germans. [] Note: One joint exercise, involving about seventy Germans, has been confirmed.

13. Q. Is the East German army likely to expand beyond 25 divisions, or is that the top limit the Soviets will let them have?

A. Since the East Germans are highly expendable, and their divisions would be quickly chewed up, more divisions will have to be formed as replacements.

14. Q. What do you consider the best indications of imminent hostility, as far as the Alert Police are concerned?

A. The issuance of heavy weapons and equipment up to T/O and E, and the holding of joint maneuvers.

15. Q. Can you think of any circumstances under which Soviet troops might withdraw from East Germany?

A. Withdrawal would be disastrous for the Soviets. The Germans would immediately turn to the West, and the business of the Japanese Peace Treaty would be repeated in short order. Any Satellite would go over to the West if the Soviets withdrew. The only possible basis for withdrawal would be a unified German Government in which the Soviets could maintain control, and treaty limitations on German armaments. Under those circumstances, the Germans would be secretly trained in the USSR, as after World War I.

16. Q. What is the purpose of the "Unity Campaign"?

A. To get United States military installations as far as possible from the borders of the USSR.

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